



**Providing Humane Services in Steuben County**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Update in regard to large horse seizure by Finger Lakes SPCA Inc. (in Steuben County) from Middle Creek/Norcrest Farm (Geraldine Trupia, Operator):

It has been nearly 16 weeks since the removal of eighty severely neglected horses from 4512 County Route 82 in the town of Troupsburg, New York. The operator (Geraldine Trupia) of the aforementioned farm pled guilty to misdemeanor animal cruelty charges October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 in Troupsburg Town Court. Formal sentencing occurred 12/17/2008 in Troupsburg Town Court. As part of her sentencing, Geraldine Trupia was ordered to pay restitution (~45,800) to reimburse the SPCA and foster care providers for expenses related to the rescue and rehabilitation of her horses and the horses at her farm that were under her care.

Vicki Mosgrove, Executive Director, for the Finger Lakes SPCA, Inc. said, "We are very pleased with the order of restitution. We felt that it was essential that Ms. Trupia bear responsibility for medical and other expenses incurred that were a direct result of the starvation and neglect these horses endured while under Trupia's care and that ultimately necessitated their rescue". Additionally, the award covered the necessities of hay and feed that were provided by the SPCA and foster care providers. The restitution award also helped to cover board expense and extensive nursing care which was provided by the foster caretakers and was required to nurse these severely neglected horses back to health.

These needy horses have been under our care supervision for nearly four months. Medical care has been provided by eight different veterinary practices, and now many of these equines resemble healthy horses (see attached photos). Others are still improving, but need more time to fully heal. The prognosis for starved horses that lose a significant part of their body weight is grim. "I really think we have turned the corner for the majority of these horses, and we have beaten the odds by being able to return so many to health." "The foster care providers, rescue personnel, veterinarians involved and SPCA supporters are real heroes. Their compassion and dedication on behalf of these severely neglected equines is admirable and inspiring!"

Prepared by: Vicki S. Mogrove, Executive Director  
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